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City of Plummer agrees to reduce load on BPA

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Bonneville Power Administration

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PLUMMER, Idaho – The Bonneville Power Administration and the city of Plummer, Idaho, signed a load reduction agreement on June 22 that will reduce the northern Idaho city's demand on BPA by 10 percent, or 0.3 average megawatts, for one year starting in October 2001.

"We are very concerned about rising power costs from BPA and increased rates to our customers," said City Clerk Donna Spier. "The city's strong commitment to the 10 percent load reduction is directly related to its desire to keep electricity affordable. A high increase would be an extreme hardship for many of our customers."

Steve Wright, BPA's acting administrator, praised the city's commitment, saying, "The city of Plummer has taken an important step toward conservation and load reduction and by doing so it is helping reduce the rate increase planned for Oct. 1. Plummer is doing its part, and we hope that other cities and utilities will do the same."

BPA's goal is to reduce loads for the next two years so the agency does not have to buy power in the extremely expensive wholesale market, which could result in far higher electricity rates for Northwest ratepayers. BPA expects that within two years sufficient new generation will have come online so that market prices will stabilize. Consumers can do their part by conserving as much energy as possible.

"Negotiations are ongoing with all our customer groups," said Wright. "We hope that our recent load reduction agreements with other customers and now with the city of Plummer will encourage additional commitments – and soon."

On June 6, BPA announced that the region's federal electricity system is headed for wholesale rate increases of 150 percent or more beginning Oct. 1 unless its industrial and utility customers make additional commitments to reduce energy use by the agency's June 22 deadline.

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